

In claim 42, line 1, please replace "antisense polynucleotide" with the phrase  
-pharmaceutical composition--.

In claim 43, line 1, please replace "antisense polynucleotide" with the phrase  
-pharmaceutical composition--.

In claim 44, line 1, please replace "antisense polynucleotide" with the phrase  
-pharmaceutical composition--.

In claim 45, line 1, please replace "antisense polynucleotide" with the phrase  
-pharmaceutical composition--.

In claim 46, line 1, please replace "antisense polynucleotide" with the phrase  
-pharmaceutical composition--.

In claim 47, line 1, please replace "antisense polynucleotide" with the phrase  
-pharmaceutical composition--.

In claim 48, line 1, please replace "antisense polynucleotide" with the phrase  
-pharmaceutical composition--.

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Please add the following new claims 53-55:

D<sup>2</sup> --Claim 53. (New) A composition comprising a hepatitis C virus (HCV) antisense polynucleotide capable of specifically hybridizing to the sense strand of the genome of an HCV, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides complementary to the sense strand of the genome of an HCV, and an agent which causes viral RNA to be inactive.

Claim 54. (New) The composition of claim 53, wherein the agent is non-covalently bound to the antisense oligonucleotide.